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# **Community Relations Plan**

for

## **Avinger Development Co.**

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**September 2000**

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN  
for  
Avinger Development Company (ADCO)  
Proposed State Superfund Site

Avinger, Cass County, Texas

December 1999

Overview of Community Relations Plan

This community relations plan (CRP) identifies issues of community concern regarding the Avinger Development Company Proposed State Superfund Site (ADCO) located in the city of Avinger in Cass County, Texas. This CRP also outlines the anticipated community relations activities to be conducted during each phase of the cleanup at the ADCO site.

The ADCO community relations plan has been prepared to aid the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) in developing a community relations program tailored to the needs of the community affected by the ADCO site. The TNRCC will conduct community relations activities to ensure that the local public has input to decisions and access to information about Superfund activities at the ADCO site.

The TNRCC has the responsibility for managing the cleanup of this site, and the TNRCC Remediation Division will oversee all community relations activities at the site.

Site Profile

Site Location and Description:

Latitude 32E 54' 05" N, Longitude 94E 32' 29" W

The ADCO facility is located in the E.W. Kimball Survey, Abstract No. 617, Cass County, Texas. The site is located approximately 1/4 mile east of the intersection of State Highway 49 and Highway 155, on the south side of State Highway 155, near Avinger, Cass County, Texas. The physical address of the property is not known.

The site is no longer an active industrial facility. The site currently consists of two metal buildings. The smaller building located on the south of the property is used for storage by the owners. The larger building is located to the north of the smaller building, is open on the east and west sides and has a structure built into it that is currently used as a home. The two buildings are located on 26.49 acres of land surrounded by wooded countryside to the north, east, west, and south. The property is surrounded by a 4-foot hog panel fence with two strands of barbed wire across the top and a locked gate, which limits access to

the site. All that remains of the operation are the two metal buildings and the discharge pipe from the southeast side of the larger building.

The property was purchased by the current owner in September 1996. The current owner lives on the site with his wife and two school age children.

#### Background and Operating History:

Limited information is available on the operational history at the ADCO site. The site was purchased by a registered agent for the Avinger Development Company (ADCO) in April 1968. The ADCO site operated as a copper-chromium-arsenate (CCA) wood treating facility. It was alleged that CCA, used in the wood treating operation, had been discharged into a pit behind the wood-treating plant. The exact time that ADCO operated the facility is unknown. Conversations with local residents indicate the facility operated for approximately one year in the early 1970's.

The site was then sold to Elton Brimberry in September 1971. Mr. Brimberry continued CCA wood treatment at the site for an unknown period of time. Mr. Brimberry eventually sold the property to the late J.O. and Doris Williams. The Williams family never operated an industrial facility at the site, and only used the property to raise livestock.

In September 1996, Doris Williams sold the property to James T. Wardlaw, Jr., who currently resides on the property with his family.

#### Site Chronology

September 23, 1993, TNRCC Region 5 staff investigate a complaint of CCA contamination on the Doris Williams Property one-quarter mile east of Avinger on State Highway 155. An auger sample of soil was collected from "what appears to be an abandoned and filled discharge pit located at what appears to be the end of a discharge pipe."

November 1993, the TNRCC Region 5 office received sample results from the September 23, 1993 sampling event. The results indicated the presence of elevated levels of arsenic (9370 milligram/kilogram), chromium (5940 mg/Kg), and copper (337 mg/Kg).

January 25, 1994, the TNRCC Region 5 office issued a Notice of Violation letter to Mrs. Doris Williams, requesting Mrs. Williams make a determination of the extent of contamination on the property and perform the necessary remedial actions.

February 10, 1994, the TNRCC Region 5 office received a written response from Mrs. Williams indicating that she was unaware of any past or present wood treating activities on her Avinger property. Mrs. Williams also provided information on the person she and her husband bought the property from and Articles of Incorporation for the Avinger Development Company (ADCO).

March 16, 1994, the TNRCC Region 5 office, referred the site to Enforcement Screening Committee (ESC) for a decision on future action.

April 28, 1994, the ESC made a decision to refer the site to the Pollution Cleanup Division, because it was determined that pursuing enforcement would not be an effective route of remedy.

February 11, 1997, TNRCC conducted an United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Screening Site inspection (SSI) sampling event to determine levels of hazardous substances present in the on-site surface soils, within the abandoned CCA pit, and in off-site creek sediment. Hazardous substances were detected in all three areas. One on-site surface soil sample, collected adjacent to the northern most metal building indicated results of 650 mg/Kg arsenic and 802 mg/Kg chromium. A subsurface sample collected from the abandoned CCA pit, indicated 11,000 mg/Kg arsenic and 9,820 mg/Kg chromium. Arsenic, beryllium, chromium, cobalt, manganese, nickel, and vanadium were detected as observed releases in sediment samples collected downstream from the site.

During February 1998, the EPA collected additional samples from around the northern building including a green-stained concrete sample. Several soil samples collected had analytical results for arsenic and chromium that were extremely elevated and determined to pose a significant health risk to the residents. The concrete sample, collected from the building that is used as the Wardlaw's residence, showed concentrations of 109,433 mg/Kg arsenic and 71,400 mg/Kg chromium.

November 8, 1999, the ADCO site was referred to the TNRCC Superfund Cleanup Section for investigation and cleanup under the Texas Superfund program.

A public meeting regarding the TNRCC proposed listing of the ADCO site to the state Registry of Superfund sites and the proposed future land use for the site is scheduled for

February 3, 2000, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of Avinger City Hall. Notice of the meeting was published in the Legal Notice section of the *Cass County Sun* on December 15, 1999, and in the *Texas Register* on December 17, 1999. A display ad announcing the public meeting will be placed in the *Cass County Sun* two weeks prior to the public meeting.

### Community Profile

Cass County, located in northeast Texas, has an economy supported by timber, agribusiness and paper production.

In 1995 the State Data Center of the Texas Department of Commerce estimated the population of Cass County at 30,831, a 2.8% increase from the 1990 U.S. Census estimate. The 1990 ethnicity estimates of Cass County by the U.S. Census were: white, 78.9%; black, 20.2%, Hispanic, 1.2%; American Indian, 0.4%; Asian, 0.1% and other 0.5%.

### Community Involvement and Concerns

At this time the only concerns regarding the ADCO site are current property owner's concerns about their home and property.

### Specific Objectives of the Community Relations Program

- A. Maintain open communications between the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, City of Avinger, Cass County and State officials and concerned citizens.
- B. Continue to expand the mailing list to include additional agencies, organizations, and residents that are interested in the project.
- C. Provide a central information contact from whom interested parties can receive information on site activities, project status, and study results.
- D. Provide all information, especially technical findings, in a language that is understandable to the general public and in a form useful to interested citizens and elected officials through the preparation of fact sheets and news releases, when major findings become available during project phases.
- E. Monitor community concerns and information requirements as the project progresses by monitoring the community response to news releases and community meetings.
- F. Modify the community relations plan as changes in community attitudes and needs occur and maintain accuracy during different project phases.

### Community Relations Techniques

- A. Project Status Briefings for community groups and concerned citizens (may include public meetings, if needed) - To periodically inform the general community of significant project developments and findings; to respond to inquiries accordingly and incorporate local concerns into the decision making process as appropriate.
- B. Project Mailing List - To provide the means through which press releases, project status reports and other significant communications can be distributed to concerned groups and individuals.
- C. Public Consultations - To conduct informal meetings (if needed) with residents. To provide an opportunity for affected residents to express any concerns and to make inquiries to insure effective two-way communication.
- D. Program Document Repositories - To maintain easily accessible repositories through which the public may review project outputs. The public will be periodically informed of the availability of project documents and the location of repositories via techniques A through C.
- E. TNRCC State Superfund Internet Homepage - provide current, timely information on state Superfund activities on the World Wide Web at the following web address: [www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/permitting/remed/superfund](http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/permitting/remed/superfund)
- F. Revise CRP - To reflect changes in site activities or local concerns. After the Proposed Remedial Action Document (PRAD) has been issued, the CRP will be revised to address implementation of the selected remedial action alternative.



## Area Elected Officials

### State

The Honorable Bill Ratliff  
State Senate  
P.O. Box 1218  
Mount Pleasant, Texas 75456  
Telephone: 903/577-1412

The Honorable Bill Ratliff  
State Senate  
P.O. Box 12068  
Austin, Texas 78711  
Telephone: 512/463-0101

The Honorable Barry Telford  
Texas House of Representatives  
206 N.W. Front Street  
DeKalb, Texas 75559  
Telephone: 903/667-5514

The Honorable Barry Telford  
Texas House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, Texas 78768-2910  
Telephone 512/463-0692

### County

The Honorable Charles McMichael  
Cass County Judge  
P.O. Box 825  
Linden, Texas 75563  
Telephone - 903/756-5181

The Honorable Taylor Duncan  
Cass County Commissioner, Pct. 1  
P.O. Box 825  
Linden, Texas 75563  
Telephone - 903/756-5701

### City

The Honorable Larry Skinner  
Mayor  
City of Avinger  
P.O. Box 356  
Avinger, Texas 75630  
Telephone 903/562-1000

The Honorable Bobby Young  
Council Member  
City of Avinger  
P.O. Box 356  
Avinger, Texas 75630  
Telephone 903/562-1000

The Honorable Carl Qualls  
Council Member  
City of Avinger  
P.O. Box 356  
Avinger, Texas 75630  
Telephone 903/562-1000

The Honorable Harold Tress  
Council Member  
City of Avinger  
P.O. Box 356  
Avinger, Texas 75630  
Telephone 903/562-1000

The Honorable Geneva Adcock  
Council Member  
City of Avinger  
P.O. Box 356  
Avinger, Texas 75630  
Telephone 903/562-1000

The Honorable Maylon Massengale  
Council Member  
City of Avinger  
P.O. Box 356  
Avinger, Texas 75630  
Telephone 903/562-1000

Area News Media

*Cass County Sun*

Attn. Editor  
P.O. Box 920  
Linden, Texas 75563  
Telephone - 903/756-7369  
Fax - 903/756-3038

*Daingerfield Bee*

Attn. Editor  
P.O. Box M  
Daingerfield, Texas 75638  
Telephone - 903/645-3948  
Fax - 903/645-3731

KEGG-AM

Attn. News Director  
P.O. Box 600  
Daingerfield, Texas 75638  
Telephone - 903/645-7851  
Fax - 903/645-4090

KKLK-FM

Attn. News Director  
106 South Jefferson Avenue, #101  
Mount Pleasant, Texas 75455  
Telephone - 903/577-9770  
Fax - 903/577-9772

### Key Project Personnel

Carol Boucher  
Project Manager  
Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission  
MC-143  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087  
Telephone: 1-800-633-9363 (within Texas only) or 512/239-2501

Bruce McAnally  
Community Relations Assistant  
Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission  
MC-225  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087  
Telephone: 1-800-633-9363 (within Texas only) or 512/239-2141

### Project Document Repositories

(Physical Address)  
Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission  
Records Management  
Building D, Room 190  
12100 Park 35 Circle  
Austin, Texas 78753  
Telephone: 512/239-2920

(Mailing Address)  
Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission  
Records Management  
MC-199  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

Daingerfield Public Library  
207 Jefferson Street  
Daingerfield, Texas 75638  
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